

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE VALLES CALDERA NATIONAL TRUST FOR FISCAL YEARS 2004-2009

BACKGROUND

The Valles Caldera Preservation Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-248) provided for the acquisition of the Baca Ranch located in the Jemez Mountains of New Mexico. The Act designated the acquired lands as the Valles Caldera National Preserve and created the Valles Caldera Trust to manage the 88,900 acre tract. The Preserve was established to protect and preserve the scientific, scenic, geologic, watershed, fish, wildlife, historic, heritage, and recreational values of the Preserve, and to provide for multiple use and sustained yield of renewable resources within the Preserve. In addition, the Act requires the tract to continue to be managed as an operating ranch. Below highlights the annual plan for fiscal years 2004-2009:

Preserve Goals	Valles Caldera National Trust (VCNT) Accomplishments & Plan	Priority
Protect and preserve for future generations the scientific, scenic, historic, and natural values of the Baca ranch, including rivers and ecosystems and archaeological, geological, and cultural resources; and recreational values of the Preserve.	From FY2000-2004 a large number of inventory projects were completed, such as Watershed Health, Fisheries surveys, Initial Water Quality Survey and Vegetation Map. In FY2005-2006, monitoring programs will be implemented for water quality and vegetation change from wildlife and livestock use. Additionally, ground-truthing of satellite imagery for rangeland and forest conditions will be undertaken and completed in FY2006.	HIGH
Manage public use, access to and the occupancy of the Preserve.	In FY2004 conducted a road inventory of 76 miles to determine the condition and length. In FY2005, approximately 114 miles will be inventoried. In FY2006 plan to inventory approximately 300-500 miles. The road inventory will be used to develop a Transportation Plan. Efforts to develop the Plan will begin in FY2007 and will be completed in FY2008.	VERY HIGH
Establish a demonstration area for an experimental management regime adapted to this unique property which incorporates elements of public and private administration in order to promote long term financial sustainability.	In FY2002 Johnson Control conducted a Structural Analysis, which documented the existing building and structural integrity. As a result of the analysis, it was determined that the majority of the facilities are historical and are in need of major renovation to bring to building code. In FY2006, plan to conduct a cultural resource assessment to assess and identify the usability of the facilities. In FY2006-2007, the Trust will use this data to develop a Master Facilities Plan.	HIGH
Multiple use and sustained yield of renewable resources within the Preserve.	In FY2004 wildlife/fisheries monitoring were conducted on the Preserve. Data collected thus far has indicated that sustained yield is being accomplished. In FY2006 will complete the first identified high risk area for Hazardous Fuels Reduction by thinning a total of 445 acres of Ponderosa Pine stands. Forest product use will be coupled with thinning projects for forest health and fire prevention, and contribute to forest restoration, where applicable.	HIGH
Achieve a financially self-sustaining operation within 15 full fiscal years of the date of acquisition.	Implement financially sound business practices. Develop and implement a Business Plan that incorporates an annual budget (revenue and expenses) tied to plan of work for 5 years. This plan will be revised annually.	VERY HIGH
Meet public safety standards applicable to units of the National Forest System and the State of New Mexico.	Follow and enforce the VCNT Health and Safety Manual. This manual refers to the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 and the Federal Worker 2000 Presidential Safety Initiative. The manual addresses, Responsibility, Reporting, Inspecting, Emergencies, Health and Wellness, Job Hazard Analysis, Contractors, Researchers, Volunteers, Visitors, etc. and it also contains appendices. Continue efforts to conform to the Highway Safety Act on all of the roads that are open for public use programs. Apply the public and employee standards applicable to the units of the National Forest System Lands.	VERY HIGH

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The Board shall meet in sessions open to the public at least three times per year in New Mexico.	The Board will continue to hold at a minimum three public sessions.	HIGH
Interpretation of the Preserve and its history for the public.	Science and cultural education programs have increased annually, and are approaching capacity of existing facilities. Potential plans for educational and outreach facilities considered for expansion of public participation and education. In FY2005, the Master Plan for Interpretation of the Preserve will be completed and used internally as a planning tool. This document will be critical for the Trust to plan for infrastructure, facilities and programs.	VERY HIGH
Operation of the Preserve as a working ranch.	The Trust has implemented programs that are consistent with a working ranch since 2002. Programs such as elk hunting, fishing, livestock grazing, hiking, equestrian, along with tours and special events have had very positive results. Development of the infrastructure has occurred by upgrading some of the facilities on the Preserve. In FY2003, Phase I of the Headquarters Water System was completed to develop an infiltration system and treatment facility for surface water. In FY2004-2006 will complete Phase II to connect 1 mile distribution line to all buildings in operation, which will allow the buildings in that area to have potable water. The Trust has been working to develop a planning document to manage fire use on the landscape along with working on specific projects to thin ponderosa pine stands to reduce fire threats.	VERY HIGH